



**Global
Communities**



About Global Communities

Global Communities works at the nexus of humanitarian assistance, sustainable development and financial inclusion, reaching tens of millions of people with community-based programs in more than 35 countries to advance positive, lasting change. In 2020, Global Communities merged with Project Concern International to increase the impact of proven programs by expanding our technical expertise, knowledge-sharing and geographic footprint.

Our Mission

Global Communities brings together local ingenuity and global insights to save lives, advance equity and secure strong futures. We achieve this mission in collaboration with a wide range of public and private sector partners, including communities directly affected by poverty, disasters and conflict. Global Communities envisions a world of expanded opportunity, where crises give way to resilience and all people thrive. We work to build this better world with a spirit of constant innovation and a commitment to confront historic barriers to dignity, equity and inclusion.

Our Approach

Our approach prioritizes nimble, evidence-based program designs, using the lens of inclusive development and equitable growth. We leverage learnings across humanitarian assistance, sustainable development and financial inclusion to ensure the strength and impact of global programs. Global Communities supports communities at the forefront of their own development and centers the voices of historically marginalized communities, actively striving to dismantle structural inequities everywhere we live and work.

Our Expertise

Our highly skilled global team brings decades of experience and deep roots in hundreds of communities around the world to their life-changing work. Global Communities partners directly with local leaders, governments, international organizations and the private sector to deliver solutions to urgent challenges while also building resilience for strong futures. We work every day to:

- **Deliver emergency response and enhance resilience through humanitarian assistance with a focus on protection.** Our work includes food assistance and shelter for families facing disasters as well as strengthening food security and market systems to ensure sustainable recovery.
- **Advance sustainable development by partnering with communities as they build resilient, healthy lives.** In communities affected by climate change, our work strengthens sustainable agriculture and water management. We support job training and market linkages to protect livelihoods and promote health and nutrition alongside mothers, children and adolescents. The lens of gender equity and social inclusion is applied to all of our work worldwide.
- **Expand opportunity through financial inclusion.** We support families, entrepreneurs and community-based businesses as they drive job creation and economic growth. Our work includes offering loans to small- and medium-sized businesses unserved by traditional banking or left out of the formal financial sector, as well as serving as a vehicle for impact investors.



In 2020 we:

- supported more than **4.4 million** people in more than **3,200** communities as they built strong, healthy futures.
- loaned or facilitated almost **60,000** loans worth over **\$249,000,000** to entrepreneurs, homeowners and small and medium enterprises
- developed over **190** public-private partnerships and trained more than **22,000** people to help them improve their livelihoods.

History & Fast Facts

Global Communities works in the Americas, Middle East, Africa, Eastern Europe and Asia, partnering directly with communities in more than 35 countries.

Global Communities was founded in 1952 as the Cooperative Housing Foundation, and until 2012, was known as CHF International. Today, it works with communities worldwide to bring about sustainable, impactful changes that improve lives and livelihoods.

Global Communities merged with Project Concern International (PCI) in 2020. Founded in San Diego in 1961, PCI grew from working in health on the U.S.-Mexico border to a global development organization driving innovation from the ground up to enhance health, end hunger, overcome hardship and advance women and girls, resulting in meaningful and measurable change in people's lives.

Since March 2020, Global Communities has responded to the COVID-19 pandemic, adapting programming and launching new projects to focus on handwashing, reliable health information and behavior change communications across our humanitarian assistance, sustainable development and financial inclusion portfolios. Global Communities provided multilingual, multicultural contact tracers and community-based information on COVID-19 vaccines in country contexts as varied as the United States and Botswana.

Global Communities works in the United States and around the world. Programs formerly led by PCI have deep roots in San Diego, where we have a long history of community health worker training and deployment as well as a focus on refugee and immigrant communities with a lens toward health equity. Current work includes combating the spread of COVID-19 through contact tracing and vaccine education; preventing human trafficking in collaboration with school districts, community leaders and a wide range of public and private sector partners; and providing essential support, education and wraparound health services to pregnant and postpartum families to ensure all children have a chance at a healthy start.





Technical Areas of Focus

Health

Global Communities has extensive experience responding to public health emergencies in the context of active conflict and crisis, as well as in the United States. We work with communities, local and national governments and other development partners to combat the spread of infectious diseases including COVID-19, Ebola, cholera, HIV/AIDS, malaria and Zika. We leverage strong collaborative relationships with community leaders to support locally led responses.

Nutrition

Global Communities places individuals, families and communities at the center of our approach to improving health, delivering interventions that target the underlying causes of poor maternal, newborn, and child health outcomes. We promote good nutrition during pregnancy and the first two years of a child's life through vitamin distribution and food security programs, including supporting breastfeeding and evidence-based complementary feeding practices and by engaging parents in community conversations about health and wellness.

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)

Global Communities takes a comprehensive approach to Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) by coupling infrastructure development, community mobilization, private sector engagement and behavior change communications to improve sanitation and hygiene. Global Communities employs internationally recognized and locally adapted methodologies such as Community-Led Total Sanitation to create demand for WASH goods and services. Leveraging local knowledge and interest developed during the demand creation process, we work to support WASH product supply in communities around the world.

Economic Opportunity

Global Communities is an innovator in providing locally appropriate financial solutions. We operate a range of models, from assisting community savings and lending groups to operating development finance institutions (DFIs) to providing loan guarantees. Over the past two decades, Global Communities has established DFIs in eight countries representing a growing portfolio of more than \$215 million, mainly in the micro, small and medium enterprise and housing finance sectors. Our loan guarantee facilities, in partnership with the U.S. Development Finance Corporation, USAID and USDA, help businesses drive economic growth and job creation. The Vitas Group, a commercial holding company created by Global Communities, provides responsible micro, small and medium enterprise finance to populations that are not served well by formal financial markets.

Humanitarian Assistance

From natural disasters to armed conflicts, Global Communities provides humanitarian assistance in complex environments. We partner with affected communities to address urgent needs and to look toward the future by building back safely. In the process of providing immediate assistance, Global Communities develops innovative programs that lay the foundation for long-term recovery. This approach, along with our commitment to developing the capacity of local staff and partners, sets us apart in the humanitarian response sector. Our assistance focuses on restarting livelihoods, increasing access to financial services, rebuilding homes and neighborhoods, and providing psychosocial support to help families recover from the trauma of disaster and conflict.



Technical Areas of Focus *(continued)*

Youth Development

Global Communities has worked with youth in more than 15 countries in sectors that include employment, health, education, conflict and leadership. We employ inclusive and participatory methods to reach youth, including those that are most vulnerable to poverty, disease and violence. By implementing youth-focused programs in economic development, conflict mitigation and civic engagement, Global Communities enables youth to reach their potential and secure healthier, more sustainable futures. We engage young people directly in the process of governance, supporting them as they build a foundation for future leadership and contribute to establishing a stable and prosperous future for their countries.

Food Security

Global Communities' agriculture and food security programs improve lives and strengthen livelihoods by sustainably increasing agricultural production and sales and enhancing access to healthy food for vulnerable communities. We work with farmers and farmer groups, small- and medium-sized agricultural enterprises, youth, women, and other communities to effectively pursue profitable agricultural activities and escape the cycle of subsistence farming and food insecurity. As communities recover from natural or manmade disasters, our emergency and transitional programs reduce food aid dependency, improve household nutrition, provide additional income and promote self-reliance. We utilize approaches such as cash transfers, food assistance or innovative electronic vouchers for food or agricultural inputs.

Climate Action

As climate change disrupts supply chains, destroys livelihoods and drives migration, Global Communities partners with those affected to build resilient livelihoods, strengthen food security and ensure access to clean, reliable water. As communities recover from climate-driven disasters, Global Communities' emergency and transitional programs reduce food aid dependency, improve household nutrition, provide additional income and promote self-reliance. Global Communities utilizes deep cross-sectoral experience and a broad range of public and private partnerships to support communities facing the direct impact of a changing climate.

Gender Equity

Global Communities centers gender equity across a broad range of multi-sectoral programming. We put women and girls at the center of our work by investing in them as leaders, change agents and economic actors. Additionally, we work with men as partners and allies to adopt new attitudes and practices that benefit their own well-being and that of their families and communities. Global Communities supports women's savings groups and provides training in small business management, literacy, entrepreneurship, financial budgeting and leadership skills. In the context of humanitarian crises, Global Communities prioritizes protection and offers specialized gender-based violence services from the onset of an emergency in order to prevent and mitigate the risk of gender-based violence.